

2025 | WINDSOR-ESSEX'S **VitalSigns®** **REPORT**

FIND OUT WHAT MAKES WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY
A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE, WORK, PLAY, AND GROW!



PREMIER PARTNER





2024 Vital Signs® Report Launch

WELCOME TO THE 2025 VITAL SIGNS® REPORT!

Welcome to the Vital Signs® Report, published by the WindsorEssex Community Foundation (WECF) in partnership with Community Foundations of Canada (CFC). The Vital Signs® Report is a snapshot of life in Windsor-Essex County that uses local research and data to measure the vitality of our community. By identifying strengths and trends in 11 key issue areas, Vital Signs® touches on all aspects of our daily lives and allows us to better understand our community. Our goal is to gather data from a broad and diverse selection of community members to better understand the needs of our overall community.

Each year, we conduct the Vital Signs® Survey and publish the Vital Signs® Report as an informational resource for our community. We use this as an opportunity to share with the community what makes Windsor-Essex County a great place to live, work, play, and grow. The Vital Signs® Report helps to build community knowledge, inform community investments, and identify strategic priorities. We use the Vital Signs® Report to help guide our grant-making process, based on what our community has told us are their priority areas. We want to facilitate giving where the need is greatest, and the Vital Signs® Program helps us to do just that.

This year, we simplified the survey questions to better highlight our community's core impressions of each issue area, making it easier for respondents to share their perspectives. New for 2025, the "What You Said" section includes select pieces of additional feedback provided by survey participants, offering a deeper look into the lived experiences and voices behind the data.

Overall, the Report shows that while Windsor-Essex is doing well in many areas, there is still room for improvement.

We are proud to compile this unique Report for our community. We want to thank everyone who participated and supported this year's Vital Signs® Program. We hope this Report will reaffirm what makes Windsor-Essex County a great place to live, work, play, and grow!

Lisa Kolody

Lisa Kolody
Executive Director, WECF
*Inspiring philanthropy, to benefit our community,
today and forever!*

PROUD MEMBER OF



Vital Signs® is coordinated nationally by Community Foundations of Canada, with special thanks to the Toronto Community Foundation for developing and sharing the **Vital Signs®** concept. The **Vital Signs®** trademark is used with permission from Community Foundations of Canada.

HOW TO READ THIS REPORT

The data presented in this Report is organized into **11 key issue areas**. Within those areas, local, provincial, and national data is included.

GRADES: GRADE: Windsor B | Essex County B | Seniors B | Youth B



A - We're doing great
B - We're making good progress
C - There's room for improvement



TOP PRIORITIES:

This section highlights top responses for each issue area.



WHAT YOU SAID:

This section highlights the results of what survey respondents shared, along with select pieces of feedback*.



DID YOU KNOW?

This section highlights important or interesting initiatives related to the information presented in each issue area.



HOW CAN I USE THIS REPORT?

The **Vital Signs®** Report serves as a starting point for further conversations. It is intended to inform the community about our priorities to better direct our region's resources and planning.



WHO USES THIS REPORT?

The **Vital Signs®** Report is a valuable tool for understanding the needs of our community. Use this Report to access the outlined programs and services, or to develop new ones that address local needs. We encourage residents, businesses, community organizations, educational institutions, and government leaders to share and discuss the findings of this Report.

*Some "What You Said" responses have been edited for clarity and brevity.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



If **Vital Signs®** is Windsor-Essex County's annual community check-up then the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a global physical exam. Established as part of the United Nations' Agenda 2030, the SDGs consist of 17 interconnected objectives focused on eradicating poverty, reducing inequality, and promoting responsible, sustainable growth by the end of the next decade. The goals serve as a call to action, advocating for the right of all people to peace and prosperity.

More information on the Sustainable Development Goals is available at www.undp.org.SGDs



OUR COMMUNITY

WINDSOR - ESSEX COUNTY'S POPULATION

WINDSOR - ESSEX
COUNTY

422,630

WINDSOR CMA*

349,615

ESSEX COUNTY*

73,016

**2021 Census Metropolitan Area

Statistics Canada's estimation process, which adjusts for census undercoverage and updates populations annually, estimates the 2024 population of the region at

483,556

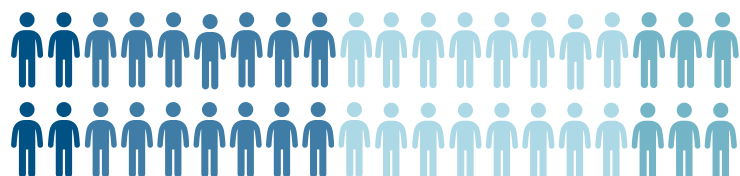


WHERE DO YOU CURRENTLY LIVE?

Essex County 14%

Windsor CMA 85%

Decline to Answer 1%



ABOUT OUR SURVEY RESPONDENTS

AGE

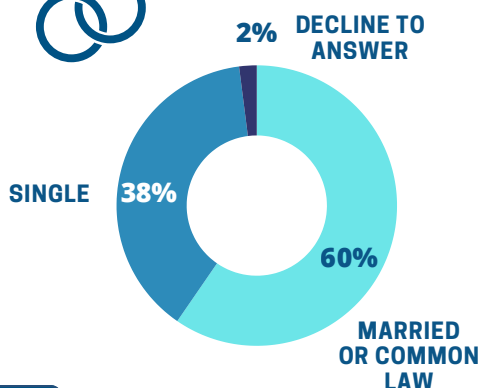
24 or younger 5%

25-44 35%

45-64 39%

65 or over 21%

MARITAL STATUS



INCOME

\$0 to \$19,999 12%

\$20,000 - \$39,999 9%

\$40,000 - \$59,999 16%

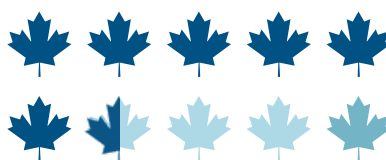
\$60,000 - \$79,999 16%

\$80,000 or more 25%

Decline to Answer 13%

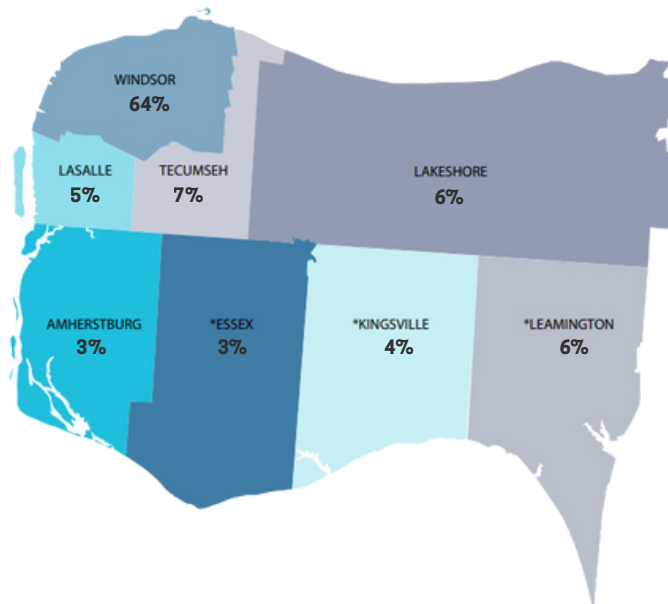
Not Applicable 9%

BORN IN CANADA



77%
YES

23%
NO



LIVED IN WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY FOR:



More than 10 years 79%

2 - 10 years 16%

Less than 2 years 5%



HEALTH, WELLNESS & ACTIVITY

GRADE: Windsor C | Essex County C | Seniors C | Youth B-

TOP PRIORITIES

Improving access to mental health programs and services

40%

Improving access to health professionals and services

40%

Increasing access to sports and physical activity programs

9%

Increasing access to oral health programs and services

5%

WHAT YOU SAID

81% of survey respondents said that, in general, I am happy in life always / most of the time.

When it comes to the overall Health, Wellness and Activity in Windsor-Essex County,

39%

of survey respondents said we're doing great / we're making good progress

56%

said there's room for improvement

"We need a central, fully resourced health hub that combines mental health, physical care, oral health & navigation support under one roof. This would address gaps in healthcare and streamline services for the community."

— 2025 SURVEY RESPONSE

STATS

98.5

General Physicians



69.4

Specialist physicians

per 100,000 residents in Windsor & Essex County.

Seniors (65+) represented nearly 18% of the local population in 2016, with that number expected to grow to

24%

by 2029



50%

of youth in grades 7-12 are on social media for 3+ hours daily, while only

32%

achieve at least 60 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity 6-7 days per week.



YOUNG WOMEN IN MOTION: BREAKING BARRIERS WITH BIKES

WEST of Windsor & Bike Windsor Essex

Supported by WECF, CFC & KIA Canada through KIA Communities in Motion

Photo captured by Justin Wu

DID YOU KNOW?



Windsor Family Health Team's Social Rx program connected 64 patients with 109 unique internal and community supports last year, helping address loneliness, social isolation, food insecurity, housing, and more—beyond what traditional medical models can offer. windsorfht.ca



Youth Wellness Hub Windsor-Essex is a one-stop-shop for youth mental health and wellness, offering free services to youth aged 12 to 25 without a waitlist or referral. A program of **Canadian Mental Health Association of Windsor-Essex**, the Youth Wellness Hub's services include mental health and addiction counselling, primary care, family navigation, and educational & recreational activities. youthhubbygg.com

Supported by the WECF



The **SouthWest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre (SOAHAC)** Oral Health Team offers hygiene education and dental services within a culturally appropriate lens for Indigenous clients. soahac.on.ca



The **Town of Tecumseh** proudly supports services in our community for seniors through a variety of recreation and community health services. Partnerships between the municipality, the **Community Support Centre of Essex, Hotel Dieu Grace Healthcare**, and the **Windsor-Essex Community Health Centre** have seen a significant increase in the provision of new seniors' services and recreation activities in Tecumseh. Two highlights are the launch of the Seniors Active Living Centre and the Hotel Dieu Grace Healthcare Bob Probert Tecumseh Campus. tecumseh.ca

You can contact your local municipality to inquire about the financial assistance programs they offer for their recreational programs and services.

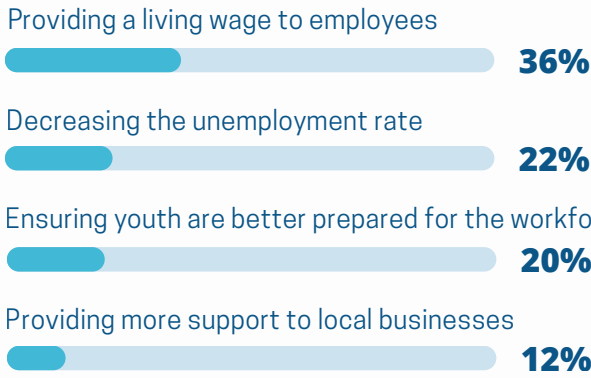




WORK

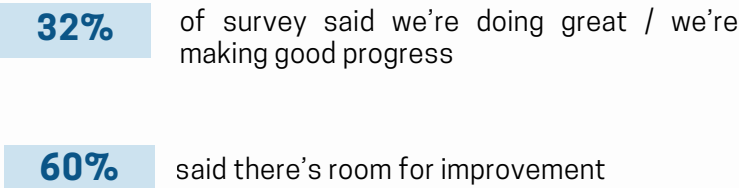
GRADE: Windsor C | Essex County C | Seniors C | Youth C

TOP PRIORITIES



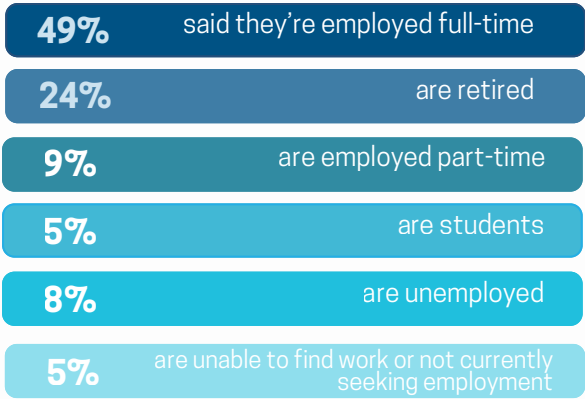
WHAT YOU SAID

When asked about the quality of work opportunities in Windsor & Essex County,



“Providing skills training for the workforce for adults, such as adult internships, and on the job training should be a top priority.” — 2025 SURVEY RESPONSE

SURVEY RESPONDENTS' CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATUS



DID YOU KNOW?



Workforce WindsorEssex is a non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening the local community by leading strategic, prosperity-driven employment and workforce development initiatives that support a resilient and sustainable labour market. workforcewindsor.essex.com

South Essex Community Council provides comprehensive employment services that assist clients in building resumes, conducting skills assessments, and exploring training options. The organization also facilitates access to the Canada-Ontario Job Grant, enabling employers to train current and prospective employees. SECC plays a vital role in matching job seekers with opportunities while supporting businesses in building a skilled workforce. secc.on.ca

In August 2025, **Invest WindsorEssex** hosted the Summer Company Student Showcase, celebrating sixteen young entrepreneurs who launched and successfully ran their own small businesses in Windsor-Essex over the summer. Full-time students aged 15 to 29 gained hands-on experience in business operations, received mentorship from local business leaders, and were awarded grants of up to \$3,000. investwindsor.essex.com



STATS

In spite of job board postings falling up to **17%** month over month in June 2025, some key sectors saw strong demand growth and posting increases, including:



EMPLOYMENT

In June 2025, the unemployment rate in Windsor-Essex stood at **11.2%** a 0.4 percentage point increase from May. This is notably higher than the national rate of 6.9%





ENVIRONMENT

GRADE: Windsor C | Essex County C | Seniors C | Youth C

TOP PRIORITIES

Improving air quality

26%

Improving the amount of connected green spaces

22%

Improving resilience to climate change

18%

Monitoring the health of Lake Erie

10%

Improving recycling programs

8%

Improving water quality

7%

92% of survey respondents said that Lake Erie's health is extremely important / moderately important.

WHAT YOU SAID

When asked how we're doing when it comes to the Environment in Windsor & Essex County,

36% of survey said we're doing great / we're making good progress

62% said there's room for improvement

"We should increase the awareness of the importance of our incredibly unique ecosystem in the area and supporting initiatives that can support this."

— 2025 SURVEY RESPONSE

STATS



Since 1976, forest cover in the region has grown from under

3% to over **8.5%**



Ojibway Prairie Complex is home to

160

Provincially rare species including numerous plants, insects and reptiles

Local volunteers have collected over

10,000 pounds

of trash during community clean-ups in the past year alone.



WECF COMMEMORATIVE GROVE AT DERWENT PARK

Supported by WECF, Essex County Nature and Little River Enhancement Group

DID YOU KNOW?



In April 2025, **Essex Region Conservation Authority** planted its 7 millionth tree at Maidstone Woods—marking nearly 50 years of reforestation efforts. During Earth Week alone, ERCA coordinated the planting of more than 70,000 native trees across Windsor-Essex. essexregionconservation.ca



Essex County Field Naturalists' Club provides education and advocacy on local biodiversity through guided hikes, talks, and citizen science. essexcountynature.com



Little River Enhancement Group (Lil' Reg) has helped plant over 39,000 trees and shrubs in the Little River watershed since its founding, including 2,200 trees in 2025 alone as part of Earth Day efforts. detroitriver.ca



WeAct Windsor runs community-wide zero-waste workshops, climate readiness hubs, and repair cafés to reduce landfill waste and build household resilience to extreme weather. weact4windsor.org



Holiday Beach Conservation Area hosts the longest bird migration in North America! Each spring and fall, over 300,000 migrating birds pass through this Essex County hotspot, making it a prime location for birdwatchers and nature lovers.



Essex Windsor Solid Waste Authority is rolling out a new Green Bin program for organic waste in Fall of 2025. This program is expected to reduce household garbage by over 48%, extend landfill lifespan, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. ewswa.org



3 billion North American birds have been lost since 1970, according to **Pelee Island Bird Observatory**. The **Canadian Nature Federation** and **Bird Studies Canada** have designated Pelee Island an *Important Bird Area*, defined as a "truly outstanding sites of significance nationally or internationally... that are exceptionally important for birds." pibo.ca

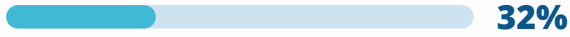


SAFETY

GRADE: Windsor C | Essex County C | Seniors C | Youth C

TOP PRIORITIES

Expanding social programming for at-risk individuals



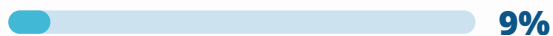
Reducing the use of illegal drugs



Reducing crime levels



Creating more proactive initiatives aimed at reducing youth crime:



WHAT YOU SAID

When asked how we're doing in terms of SAFETY in Windsor & Essex County

35%

of survey said we're doing great / we're making good progress

63%

said there's room for improvement

"Cyber safety for youth should be a top priority. We need more initiatives to create in-person learning for children and parents."

— 2025 SURVEY RESPONSE

DID YOU KNOW?



In early 2024, the Warming Bus Initiative, a collaborative effort between the **City of Windsor**, **Transit Windsor**, and the **Downtown Mission**, provided over 440 hours of service along a pre-determined route, offering a safe & warm space for individuals experiencing homelessness during hours when other public spaces were closed. citywindsor.ca



The **Welcome Centre Shelter for Women and Families** embraces a harm reduction approach that fosters a nonjudgmental, supportive environment for women and families, including those who use substances. Through on-site services, peer support, and community partnerships, the Centre prioritizes safety, dignity, and housing stability over abstinence, meeting clients where they are without barriers to service. welcomecentreshelter.com

STATS

1041 publicly accessible AEDs are registered in the region as of the start of 2025.



In Windsor & Amherstburg, personal crimes were down **1.5%** and crimes against property were down about **13%** in the first half of 2025.



GETTING STARTED

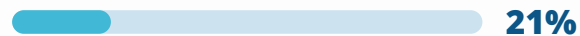
GRADE: Windsor C | Essex County C | Seniors C | Youth C

TOP PRIORITIES

Increasing employment and educational opportunities for newcomers



Increasing awareness of racism and diversity issues



Improving foreign accreditation recognition:



Improving how my community welcomes newcomers



WHAT YOU SAID

When asked how we're doing in terms of GETTING STARTED in Windsor & Essex County

38%

of survey said we're doing great / we're making good progress

45%

said there's room for improvement

"Our community should prioritize connecting diverse groups to one another, to strengthen and enhance broader community connection as one."

— 2025 SURVEY RESPONSE

DID YOU KNOW?



The **Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County** runs Language Cafés, conversation circles, and cultural events that foster language skills and community connection. MCC also offers employment readiness workshops and newcomer mentorship programs. themcc.com



Family Services Windsor Essex delivers parenting support, mental health counseling, and youth programs designed to help newcomer families adjust and thrive in the community. fswe.ca



University of Windsor Continuing Education programs offer digital literacy courses and professional skills training tailored to newcomers seeking employment or career advancement. uwindsor.ca

STATS

The majority of newcomers arrive between ages

25-44

making them vital to economic participation and community building.



25% of the residents of Windsor-Essex County were born outside of Canada.





LEARNING

GRADE: Windsor B- | Essex County B- | Seniors B- | Youth B-

TOP PRIORITIES

Improving skill development for the workforce



Affordability of post-secondary education



Better access to educational opportunities



Improved selection of post-secondary programs and opportunities



WHAT YOU SAID

When asked how they would rate the quality of **LEARNING** in Windsor & Essex County

52%

of survey respondents said we're doing great / we're making good progress

42%

said there's room for improvement

"Schools should be providing mental health education from JK to high school every year."

—2025 SURVEY RESPONSE

SURVEY RESPONDENTS EDUCATION

57%

reported having a university certificate / diploma.

23%

said they have a college or other certificate / diploma.

12%

said they completed high school.

DID YOU KNOW?



The WindsorEssex Community Foundation awarded over \$60,000 in scholarships to 26 students pursuing post-secondary education in various fields of study in June of 2025. wecf.ca



The Windsor-Essex Child/Youth Advocacy Centre's "Read to Rise" program aims to provide age-appropriate books to child victims and witnesses of crime and abuse, using literature to foster imagination, broaden perspectives, and cultivate resilience and self-confidence. wecyac.ca *Supported by the WECHC

STATS

In September 2024, the Ontario Provincial government announced a **\$9 million** investment to support skilled trades in Windsor-Essex.



Windsor and Essex County's two major public school boards serve over

60,000 students

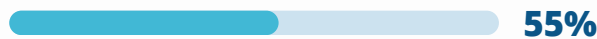


HOUSING

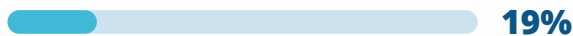
GRADE: Windsor C | Essex County C | Seniors C | Youth C

TOP PRIORITIES

Improving the affordability of housing



Increasing the availability of housing with different levels of assisted care



Providing housing for the homeless



WHAT YOU SAID

When asked how they would rate the quality of **HOUSING** in Windsor & Essex County

15%

of survey respondents said we're doing great / we're making good progress

82%

said there's room for improvement

"There is more than one answer. While attacking the lack of housing for the homeless is an urgent priority, the lack of affordability in general is an urgent medium term need."

—2025 SURVEY RESPONSE

DID YOU KNOW?



The Windsor Essex Community Housing Corporation (WECHC) is the leading provider of social housing in Windsor and Essex County and ranks as the fifth largest in Ontario. It supports around 12,000 residents by offering more than 4,900 housing units for seniors, families, and individuals in need of affordable accommodation. wechc.com



Habitat for Humanity Windsor-Essex expanded eligibility criteria for their affordable homeownership program in August 2025, to include families with a total household income of up to \$135,000. 18 new homes will be built in 2026, and qualified candidate are encouraged to apply. habitatwindsor.org



In August of 2025, the Federal Government invested \$4.5 million in the Windsor & Essex County region to organizations creating innovative housing solutions, including \$2 million to the **University of Windsor** for a project using 3D printing to construct a net-zero residence. uwindsor.ca

STATS

\$568,000

The average home price in Windsor in June 2025



Housing supply increased in 2025, rising

16%



between June 2024 and June 2025





GETTING AROUND

GRADE: Windsor C | Essex County C | Seniors C | Youth C

TOP PRIORITIES

Creating a regional transportation system connecting Windsor and Essex County



Improving public transportation

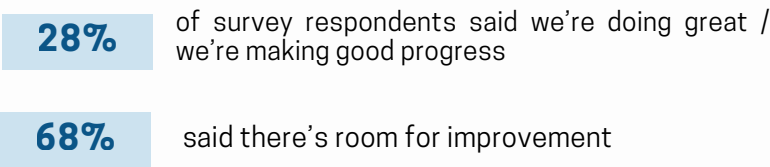


Improving and/or increasing the number of bike pathways and/or pedestrian walkways



WHAT YOU SAID

When asked how they would rate the quality of GETTING AROUND in Windsor & Essex County



“Strengthening (public transit) connectivity between Windsor and surrounding towns would enhance accessibility while supporting both environmental and economic goals.”
— 2025 SURVEY RESPONSE

DID YOU KNOW?



In August 2025, **Transit Windsor** implemented a major service expansion which included adding a substantial 20,000 new service hours, launching updated routes, enhanced Sunday services, and higher peak-time frequencies across the network, as well as service changes such as renaming of routes, a new signage and colour coding system, and the elimination of some routes such as the Tunnel Bus. citywindsor.ca



Community Support Centre of Essex County's "Rural Connectivity Initiative" project aims to develop sustainable transit solutions that enhance transportation links between rural communities and urban centers, promoting economic growth, accessibility & development of a sustainable regional transportation model. communitysupportcentre.ca
*Supported by the WECF

STATS

Through the 2024-2025 gas tax program, the Ontario government allocated over

\$9 million

to support public transit in Windsor and Tecumseh.



10%



of Windsor commuters use active transportation methods, including walking, cycling, and public transit.

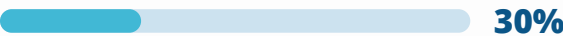


FOOD SECURITY

GRADE: Windsor C | Essex County C | Seniors C | Youth A

TOP PRIORITIES

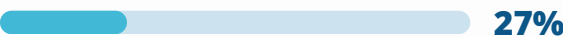
Improving access to locally grown food



Improving access to fresh and nutritious food



Increasing support for community food programs

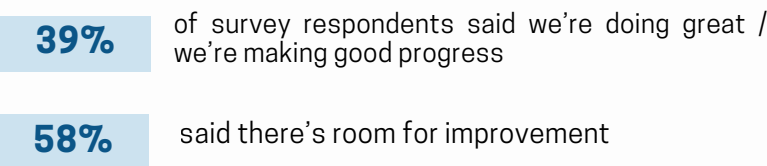


Increasing support for community food banks



WHAT YOU SAID

When asked how Windsor & Essex County is doing when it comes to FOOD SECURITY



“Our community needs foodbanks that are open on the weekend, or with extended hours into the early evening, so those who work during the day can have access to them.”
— 2025 SURVEY RESPONSE

DID YOU KNOW?



Since October 2023, the **Good Greens Food Reclamation Program** has rescued over 17,000 pounds of fresh food from the **Downtown Windsor Farmers' Market**—enough for more than 23,000 healthy meals. Sponsored by the **Downtown Windsor BIA**, the program reduces waste, supports local vendors, and helps fight food insecurity. downtownwindsor.ca



Feeding Windsor Essex's "Lunch Club" delivers affordable, nutritious meals to low-income seniors while also reducing social isolation through volunteer visits that support physical and mental well-being. feedingwindsor.essex.ca
*Supported by the WECF

STATS

24%



of residents of Windsor & Essex County experienced food insecurity in 2023.

In Windsor-Essex County, the weekly cost of groceries for an adult individual is estimated at

\$115





ARTS & CULTURE

GRADE: Windsor B | Essex County B+ | Seniors B | Youth B-

TOP PRIORITIES

Increasing the number of arts & cultural opportunities for those wanting to pursue a career



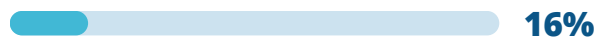
Accessibility of art and cultural events



Increasing the number of arts and cultural programs for youth



Providing more art in public spaces



WHAT YOU SAID

When asked about the overall quality of ARTS & CULTURE in Windsor & Essex County

62% of survey respondents said we're doing great / we're making good progress

28% said there's room for improvement

"We should increase municipal funding for arts organizations and provide more access to grants for locals, to spur innovation."

— 2025 SURVEY RESPONSE

STATS



\$199,250

was allocated to support local festivals including the Windsor International Film Festival, Scarehouse Windsor, and Bright Lights Windsor through the Provincial government's 2025 Experience Ontario program.

Since 2016, Canadian Heritage has contributed over

\$1.6 million

in funding to **29** arts and culture organizations.



Walpole Island First Nation Mural Installation at the Canadian Transportation Museum & Heritage Village
Supported by the WECF

DID YOU KNOW?



The **Windsor Symphony Orchestra** is actively working to make its concerts accessible and welcoming to individuals with disabilities by offering personalized support, such as usher assistance and accommodations arranged through the box office. Through these efforts to create a "barrier-free symphony", the WSO is fostering inclusion and building a sense of community for patrons who may otherwise face barriers to participating in arts and culture events. windsorsymphony.com

*Supported by the WECF



Port Windsor is building a new 'cultural pier', that will overlook the river in Sandwich Town. Supported by the Gordie Howe International Bridge Community Benefits Plan and local businesses, the new pier will include landscaped greenspaces, First Nation interpretive signage, benches, an expansion of the pedestrian pathway, and will have views of the Gordie Howe International Bridge. portwindsor.com



Windsor International Film Festival held the sixth consecutive WIFF Under the Stars in 2025. The free and inclusive outdoor film festival fosters community and provides accessible entertainment for diverse audiences in the heart of Downtown Windsor.

windsorinternationalfilmfestival.com

*Supported by WECF



In May 2025, the **Canadian Transportation Museum & Heritage Village** revealed two murals by artists from **Walpole Island First Nation**, created as part of the **Gordie Howe International Bridge Project**. Originally displayed at the bridge construction site, the murals are now permanently housed at the museum. The broader initiative involved collaboration with **Caldwell First Nation**, emphasizing the cultural importance and shared heritage of the region's Indigenous communities. ctmhv.com

*Supported by the WECF



BELONGING & LEADERSHIP

GRADE: Windsor C | Essex County C | Seniors C | Youth C

TOP PRIORITIES

Increasing opportunities for people to feel included and connected



Providing more initiatives to increase life satisfaction



Creating initiatives to improve voter turnout



Increasing opportunities to volunteer



WHAT YOU SAID

When asked about the overall quality of BELONGING & LEADERSHIP in Windsor & Essex County

40% of survey respondents said we're doing great / we're making good progress

52% said there's room for improvement

“Strengthening leadership and fostering a true sense of belonging in Windsor-Essex County should be a top priority. This requires improving professional standards among leadership, addressing systemic issues that lead to divisiveness, and creating spaces where residents feel valued and heard.”

— 2025 SURVEY RESPONSE



BLACK BOYS CODE WINDSOR ADVANCEMENT PROJECT

Supported by WECF, CFC & KIA Canada through Kia Communities in Motion
Photo captured by Justin Wu

DID YOU KNOW?



Family Respite Services helps Windsor-Essex families of children with disabilities access planned caregiving breaks. Using tools like the Respite Now app, they connect families with trained support providers for safe, engaging, personalized care. familyrespite.org



The Bridge Youth Services delivers support programs for unhoused and at-risk youth, including drop-in centres, counselling, and transitional housing to promote stability and reduce vulnerability to exploitation.

thebridgeyouth.ca
*Supported by the WECF



Big Brothers Big Sisters Windsor-Essex matches volunteer mentors with youth in need across Windsor-Essex. With outreach to underserved neighbourhoods and enhanced mental health supports within mentorship programs, their program ensures that all youth, regardless of background, have access to safe, consistent, and life-changing guidance from trusted adult role models. windsor.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca

*Supported by the WECF



Amherstburg Freedom Museum celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2025. This community-based, non-profit museum was founded by residents of Amherstburg to preserve and share the history and contributions of African-Canadians. Through artifacts and storytelling, the Museum highlights their journey and lasting impact on Canadian history. amherstburgfreedom.org

STATS



98,000 voters

in Windsor and Essex County cast ballots in advance polls during the 2025 Federal Election.

32% of eligible voters turned out to the polls in the last Municipal election, in 2022, with women and people of colour even further underrepresented.

October 26, 2026

is the date when the next general municipal elections will take place in the region.



Online charitable giving rose **24%** nationally in January & February of 2025.



OUR VISION

Inspiring philanthropy, to benefit our community, today and forever!

OUR MISSION

We build a better Windsor-Essex community by attracting and managing legacy funds, making grants to support local programs, and bringing community partners together.

ABOUT WECF

The WindsorEssex Community Foundation (WECF) is a charitable organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in Windsor-Essex County through collaboration, strategic leadership, and innovative philanthropic solutions. For over 40 years, we have been committed to creating opportunities for prosperity and improving our communities.

Founded in 1983 as Heritage Windsor, WECF serves as a perpetual community trust for philanthropic purposes. We help donors establish lasting legacies that benefit our community today and into the future. To date, we have invested over \$17.8 million and managed over \$32 million in assets.

WECF leads several impactful programs in the region, including Inspiration 100™, Vital Signs®, and Random Act of Kindness Day™. By attracting and managing legacy funds, making grants to local initiatives, and fostering collaboration among community partners, we strive to build a better Windsor and Essex County.

WECF thanks our valued partners in community for supporting the Vital Signs® program. Together, through shared commitment and collaboration, we strengthen our region. Hearing from our community helps guide our work—and reminds us that when we listen, learn, and act together, we all grow stronger.



The WECF has
invested over
\$18.9 million
in community since 1983.



over **\$1.1 million**
invested in community in
2024-2025.



112 community
investments to **73**
community partners in
the past year alone.



31 partners in
philanthropy invested
\$959,850 to **60**
charities from Donor-Advised
& Agency Funds held at the
WECF.

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

